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Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /058 W
---------- 102215
R 051458Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1092
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5606

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, RO
SUBJECT: NEW RCP PERMANENT BUREAU: PATAN COMMENTS

REF: BUCHAREST 5569

1. ION PATAN (DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, NEWLY ELEVATED TO FULL RCP POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (POLEXCO) STATUS, AND ONE OF FOUR TOP OFFICIALS JOINING CEAUSESCU IN NEWLY FORMED RCP PERMANENT BUREAU (REFTEL), GAVE FOLLOWING RATIONALE ABOUT BUREAU REORGANIZATION TO AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 4:

2. BUREAU IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE MORE EFFICIENTLY URGENT CONCRETE OPERATING PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE BETWEEN BI-WEEKLY POLEXCO SESSIONS, ESPECIALLY IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE.

3. BUREAU'S COMPOSITION CLEARLY INDICATES WHICH PROBLEMS ARE PARAMOUNT (FOREIGN RELATIONS ESPECIALLY TRADE AND PRODUCTION).

4. BUREAU IS SUBORDINATE TO POLEXCO, WHICH SETS POLICY. BUREAU IS LIKE PREVIOUS POST-MARCH BUREAU IN THIS, BUT IS NOT LIKE THE OLD PERMANENT PRESIDIUM (ABOLISHED IN MARCH) WHICH, PATAN HALF-ACKNOWLEDGED, "PRESIDED" AT TIMES.

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5. BUREAU IS SMALLER BECAUSE IT PROVED TOO CUMBERSOME TO

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ASSEMBLE 10-15 MEMBERS EVERY WEEK. BUREAU MEMBERSHIP IS NOT FIXED FOREVER. IT COULD CHANGE DEPENDING ON WHAT MAJOR CONTINUING PROBLEMS COME UP. CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS COULD BE ADDED (BY ELECTION FROM THE POLEXCO, OF COURSE).

6. COMMENT: NO RCP STATUTORY BASIS HAS YET EMERGED FOR THE NEW BUREAU, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE CONTAINED IN AS YET UNPUBLISHED RCP STATUTE CHANGES PASSED BY CONGRESS BUT REFERRED TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR "DEFINITIZING". MARCH DRAFT RCP STATUTE CHANGE -- WHICH SET UP LARGER BUREAU FIXED BY TITLE AND WAS PRETEXT FOR GETTING RID OF PRESIDIUM CONTAINING SENIOR INDEPENDENT FIGURES NOT ALWAYS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH CEAUSESCU -- HAS IN ANY CASE BEEN JUNKED WITHOUT EXPLANATION. CEAUSESCU NOW HAS AN INNER CABINET IN WHICH THE LINES BETWEEN "OPERATING AND EXECUTION", ON THE ONE HAND, AND "POLICY-SETTING" ON THE OTHER, ARE SURELY NOT GOING TO BE AS CLEAN AS PATAN ARGUES.
BARNES

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